



also that this despatch was a shame fabrication meant to throw the

eyes of the public, and that consequently it is not worth a straw—or, the despatch is a bona fide state paper; and then the whole elaborately built up edifice of the *China Mail* falls to the ground as easily as a card-house blown upon with the lightest breath. Which of these two solutions, I ask, is more likely to be true?

We accept the alternative that if we are correct in our assertions the despatch "was intended to throw dust into the eyes of the public, and that consequently it is not worth a straw—or, the despatch is a bona fide state paper; and then the whole elaborately built up edifice of the *China Mail* falls to the ground as easily as a card-house blown upon with the lightest breath. Which of these two solutions, I ask, is more likely to be true?"

eyes of the public," but it was not necessarily either, "wholly untrue" or "a shameful fabrication." As far as it went it was strictly true, but the truth of the whole story was not told in it; and without the light thrown upon the matter from other sources, none but the readers of the confidential despatches to the Foreign Office, to the Chinese, and to others whom we need not particularize, would know the whole

story. To this day Mr Lay is, we believe, in more than partial ignorance of the true facts of the case.

But it may be asked, "Why recall events which do not tend to raise the character of our diplomacy?" Our answer is an easy one. In the future, of our intercourse with China it is a matter of the highest importance that our representatives, and those whose interests they guard,

should have a perfectly clear understanding with each other. We are the last to advocate an unwise publicity as regards official matters, but there should at least be an understanding that our Minister can be relied on to the full extent of his words or actions. Much of the heart-burning felt during the administration of Sir F. Bruce would have been avoided by greater candour on his part, and the pub-

England in the assurance of full support from the Foreign office while it was instructing our officials in China to "shelve" their claims or projects, that so much which was deservedly complained of arose. And the events of the Lay-Osborne expedition may prove a useful lesson both to too confiding civilians and to the govern-

A CORRESPONDENT enquires whether it is really the fact, as has been stated, that Hongkong will have to pay, under the terms of the new postal contract, an additional sum of £10,000 annually. The

reply is,—no, only a portion thereof. The actual cost of the service will be £195,659, probably apportioned as stated in the printed correspondence. The Imperial Government would pay £131,388 and The Italian Government would pay £54,271, and the Colonies of Ceylon, Mauritius, and Hongkong would pay £10,000. That is, the three colonies named, not one only; and the respective

proportions will of course be determined by the postal business done by each. We shall not, however, have to pay for anything, as there will be an increase of two in the number of mails arriving and despatched under the new contract which commences next month.

---

**LOCAL.**

THE Band of the 73rd Regt. will perform in the Public Gardens on Tuesday, the 14th Instant, commencing at 4 o'clock P.M. The following is the programme :--  
O-TURE, "Flight from Switzerland".....*Kücker*  
QUADRILLE, "Palace of Industry".....*Croise*  
SELECTION, "Un Ballo in Maschera".....*Verdi*  
VALSE,.... "Songs of the Rhine".....*Gungl*  
GALOP,..... "Forward".....*Kühne*  
M. E. TROY, *Band Sergt.*, Conductor.

Deut & Co., Bankrupts, which was to have been held to-day, was adjourned for one month, on the application of Mr Whyte, pending the decision of the Judge on the motion of the petitioning creditor to annul the bankruptcy. Mr Alexander, Registrar, granted the request the more readily, as not a single creditor appeared to prove debts.

Nothing beyond the usual stock cases were brought on before Mr May, the sitting

Magistrate, this morning. Two or three Chinese were fined for hawking fowls without a license; and it was a noticeable circumstance that two Sikh policemen, who had charge of two such cases, brought and gave up 20 cents each of a bribe which had been given them by the unlicensed hawkers. They are certainly glad to believe that the Sikh is more honest than the Hindu. The money was put in the police box.

A smart little Chinese rascal was charged with having attempted to pick the pocket of Capt. Frank of the Italian ship *Lagurina*. The youthful thief denied the charge, but admitted that he had been in Gaol before at the same time, however, he said that he had "changed his heart," and was now leading an honest life. His Western ship observed "that this case did not look like the fruits of an altered life," and he thereupon gave the prisoner a few words of comfort. He would spend his

New Year in Gaol, where he would  
 consigned for three months; on entering  
 the Gaol he would receive ten strokes with  
 the breach, and he would be favored with  
 a similar benefit when he made his escape  
 therefrom.

---

MR. DE SOLLA'S CONCERT AND BULLSQU  
 TROUPE.  
 This Company gave their first entertain  
 ment on Saturday evening at the Theatre  
 Lyritabo, and achieved a genuine succe

It is rarely that Hongkong has been destitute of public amusements as during the present winter season, and the enterprising *entrepreneur*, Mr Wilson, will doubtless meet with the success he deserves by bringing so talented a company to the Colony. The entertainment of Saturday evening was a decided novelty in Hongkong, and made it difficult to believe that we were not a few minutes walk from the Regent Circus; and those who were not able to attend, and did so, were not

to "go the rounds" in London and  
view of the spirit and dash imparted to it

the instrument for a lady of touch is perfect, and her execution of the rapid passages in the "Home sweet Home" was faultless. She fairly earned the hearty approval which she was greeted. Master de Solla, who is quite a child, sang very well, and exhibited a considerable amount of taste in the two songs for him. Mr Maurice de Solla, who accompanied the other performers, at the accompaniment to the songs

The San Francisco Market Review, 30, contains the following paragraph: "Great Republic intelligence has been received from this city of the safe arrival, at Fresno, of Mr. S. Tate, formerly of this city, connected with the San Francisco Pacific Sugar Refinery Co. His arrival is told concerning Mr. Tate's return to China is true, he must have our warmest regards, having been his countryman."

THE EARTHQUAKE AT FORMOSA

We are indebted to Capt. Cro American, barque *Arthur Sabo* following particulars of this event.

On the 18th December, about the Island of Formosa was vi earthquake unprecedented in v attended with the most lament life. The shock appears to have

The huge mass of waters returned with fearful rapidity and force as there was no chance of escape, and many were killed. The wreck of an old junk had been buried in the sand for years, and was carried out to sea, the waves re-filled the harbor. The native town suffered very much, a large number of the houses were demolished and some fifty lives were lost.

The shock seems to have put a direct course over the Island lung to Tamsui, at which latter place very severely, as well in the destruction of houses as including a temple which had completed at a cost of \$30,000. On occasion the Chinese exhibited apathy and indifference, making to extricate their friends and buried amidst the mass of ruin of falling houses, whose pierce

The following paragraph from *Herald*, Nov. 23, possesses a for our local cricketers:—"A original cricketers made their the Australian public last created a great sensation by th cy in the noble game which been exclusively regarded a

to arrive in London early in May for the Cricket season. They return in August, 1833. The dress consists of white flannel military red shirts, with a blue sash on from the right above left hip. They have blue neckties of the same colour, collars, and French merino. This is their uniform, but each wears separate coloured caps. It is exclusive professionals from Australia.

which they engage.



## For Sale.

Central, formerly occupied by the CENTRAL  
BANK OF WESTERN INDIA.  
MAGWEN & Co.  
Hongkong, 8th December, 1887.

J. S. HOOK, SON & Co.,  
Managers.  
Hongkong, December 17, 1867.

Surveyor General's Office,  
Hongkong, December 17, 1887.

A Specimen of the Fair Coloured Lithograph can be seen at this Office.  
Hongkong, November 7, 1867.

**SPIRITS OF WINE**, in Boxes of 1 do  
 Bottles. **RAYNAL & Co.**  
 Hongkong, October 1, 1866. 1cc-

Printed & published by CHARLES ABRAHAM  
SALNI, Proprietor, at No. 3, Wyndham  
Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

Agents in China for the above  
ANCE COMPANY are prepared to g  
cy covering Marine Risks, at t  
rates.

Hongkong, July 6, 1866.

FUSSELL



